

Woman: Herman Melville's.

Man: (Irritated) WHO?

Woman: (Screams) HERMAN MELVILLE'S!!

Man: (Limp) Oh.

(Curtain, exhausted, drops.)

OBVIOUSLY  
for W.

All of the parts  
do not relate.  
Get it straight:  
the women, the  
sky, the street.  
All of the parts  
are never, can  
never be, known.  
You can talk,  
dissect, waste  
years, lifetimes  
& go nowhere.  
& besides that  
all of the parts  
do not relate.

#### STANZAS

The next poem sits in Kansas City  
with a warm beer, a Marlboro.  
Lazy, dissatisfied, it's ready  
to stand up, hop a bus and find me.

All the daylights I've had beaten  
out of me congregate outside my window.  
They talk into evening, their  
conversation lively, never dimming.

Likewise, all the embarrassments  
visited upon me in the past roost  
in the rafters, killing time,  
waiting to be revealed any second.

The next poem turns a corner or  
turns into a woman turning a corner.



I can't see well enough from this  
seat. The Face of the Present peers

in the window sporting a tragic  
Humphrey Bogart leer. Applause signs  
flash on, standing ovations ensue,  
a culture goes insane with delight

and I'm left waiting for the next  
bus due in soon from Anywhere, U.S.A.  
O muse, with breasts like stereo  
typewriters, skin like erasable bond,  
where are you when you need me?

-- Joel Dailey

New Orleans LA

LETTER FOR HENRY: POÈME TROUVÉ (1981)

This notification of eligibility  
has been specially prepared for:

H.D. Thoreau  
Thoreau Lyceum  
156 Belknap Street  
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

Yes, MR. HENRY DAVID THOREAU,  
you already may have won  
the grand prize  
in this year's Reader's Digest Sweepstakes.  
Just think of it!  
Walking to your mailbox  
in CONCORD  
and finding there made out to YOU  
a certified check for \$100,000.  
You could pay off all your bills,  
invest for the future,  
and still have plenty left  
to treat the THOREAU family  
to some pretty fancy luxuries.

Or:

How about one of these colossal prizes?  
A G.E. 1000 Giant-Screen TV!  
A Sumptuous Bourbon-Toned Mink Coat!  
A 33' Morgan Sailing Yacht!